

## SIX HUNDRED ARMY OFFICERS RESIGN.

They Are in the Philippines and Say Death From Disease Faces Them.

ENSIGN PERKIN'S STORY.

Insomnia and Insanity Fearfully Prevalent—"Whisky the Salvation of the Troops" Says One Report.

**REPUBLIC SPECIAL**  
San Francisco, Cal., May 5.—Sixteen hundred officers of the navy, son of Senator Perkins, who won distinction in the Philippines on the earlier Benhamonton, continue the story of a young officer who has just returned from the Philippines, that there are between 50 and 600 volunteer officers now at the front who have rendered their resignations to General Ogle, only a few of the resignations have ever reached Washington.

Most of the officers are young men who were appointed train and civil life at the outbreak of the war, and were placed in command. The principal reason they give for resigning to return home is that it meets some death from disease or remains in the Philippines under existing conditions. "The trouble is," said the young officer that they have not been given sufficient time and money, then, as is generally understood to be the thing in warfare. They have to do a sort of police duty, and their mean living in rats-eatied camps and only occasionally having a brush with the enemy. Death from disease always takes them to the front. When they get sick, they want to be treated and given excellent treatment, but when he becomes convalescent and needs to be built up, he has no chance. A run up to Koko or Yokohama would give him fresh air, and the change would bring him up to better health. The report adds that the ought to be there for that work, because he has been here for months."

"WHISKY THEIR SALVATION."

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Washington, May 5.—The remarkable statement is made officially by a medical officer of the army that intoxicating drinks are the salvation of the nation.

This is the opinion of Captain C. E. Woodruff, on duty at Fort Riley, Kas., who has had large personal experience in the treatment of soldiers in the Philippines, and in the course of an exceedingly interesting report mentions cases of insomnia and insanity which are startling in their details. Captain Woodruff says:

"It made no difference in the trooper to tell every one that alcohol was dangerous, and most men would not admit such a thing. In the Philippines, that we had seen for a long time our drunkenness, but a steady, daily consumption.

"It seemed inevitable. This almost universal drinking must mean a natural defense, craving—such so many men cannot be failed to do what was so positive said to be wrong."

A Spanish army surgeon told me that their experience was that a certain amount of wine daily was essential to that climate. I did not believe him, of course, and was inclined to ridicule his large report. When we were putting the down the raw charred timbers imported from the shores of the Mediterranean. It did not take long to find that he was correct, and the reason is difficult to find.

"INSOMNIA PREVENTS."

I never heard more complaints of persistent insomnia as I did in the Philippines. One young and vigorous staff officer who seemed always east complained to me one day that on the previous afternoon at 5 o'clock he found that he could not remember anything he read. When he went to bed and of course he had forgotten the beginning, he was surely disturbed until the next morning.

A surgeon informed me that before he was half through his rounds he daily discovered that he could not remember what he had done, and he always had to go down thirty to forty minutes before the brain would work properly.

It was rumored that a general officer one day at an early hour found himself in the same condition he could not act properly because he could not remember what was to be acted upon.

"In my limited circle one man broke down completely, and another became insane—but largely due to overwork and the heat. A very high percentage of soldiers have gone insane. There was also a large number in whom muscular force was diminished.

"Though I am not quite ready to swear, need a daily ration of wine or whisky, such as all Mediterranean nations use, it seems reasonable. At any rate the safety of the men depends in finding the soldiers is a perfectly legitimate right to draw from the facts. Each company commander should have a stipulated sum to buy fruits or wine, as the occasion demands. Every foreign service finds it necessary to issue spirits in the field, necessary to some spirits in the field from time to time."

### OPOSITION TO KERN.

Club Organized Among East St. Louis Democrats to Fight Him.

East St. Louis Democrats, who are opposed to the election of Fred J. Kern, the Democratic nominee for Congress in that district, held a meeting last night and perfect an organization for the express purpose of securing his defeat. A number of tributes speeches were made. Resolutions of the same tenor were adopted.

The club was then formed, with more than fifty members, and the officers of the club are President, Mayor M. M. Stephens; first vice president, Charles P. Jones; second vice president, H. D. Sexton; third vice president, J. B. Maguire; secretary, D. P. Kelly; assistant secretary, E. S. McNeely; corresponding secretary, John Keane; treasurer, Paul W. Abt; sergeant-at-arms, T. W. Daniels.

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